

GREAT SOUTHERN GETAWAYS >

Mississippi

By Kacey Cloues



A storied land made legendary in the works of literary giants like William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, and Tennessee Williams, Mississippi continues to intrigue and enchant all who encounter her. From the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement, the state is rich in history. And, the soulful sound of the blues continues to echo across Mississippi. In recent years, the state has also come to be known as a top destination for golfers and gamers alike. So whether you're looking to retrace history or play like there's no tomorrow, Mississippi holds something in store.

The Fallen Oak Course at Beau Rivage, Biloxi

GREAT SOUTHERN GETAWAYS >

TOP 10 >

Reasons to Visit Mississippi

10 Round and Round

See the Dentzel Carousel in Meridian's Highland Park. Manufactured in 1896 for the St. Louis Exposition, it's the world's only two-row stationary Dentzel menagerie.

9 Coastal Creativity

The Walter Anderson Museum in Ocean Springs preserves the legacy of a talented, troubled artist who found solace among the wild dunes of Horn Island.

8 History and Heritage

Discover the places and people involved in one of the Civil Rights Movement's most important endeavors along the Freedom Summer Driving Trail.

7 Staying Inn

From Dunleith Plantation's stunning white-columned mansion to North Mississippi's oldest brick home, the Federal-style Cartney-Hunt House in Columbus, historic bed-and-breakfasts are a great way to experience local culture.

6 Ancient Legacies

Emerald Mound in Natchez is the second largest ceremonial mound in the country and Winterville Mounds near Greenville comprise one of the largest extant mound groups in the Mississippi Valley.

SAVE THE DATE >

November 8–10
Mistletoe Marketplace,
Jackson

The Junior League of Jackson kicks off the holiday shopping season in grand style with its largest annual fundraiser at the Mississippi Trade Mart. Featuring more than 165 merchants and fun events like Sundaes with Santa; Marketplace Brunch; and Blues, Brew and BBQ, this shopping extravaganza always draws a crowd, so reserve tickets early.

November 10–11
22nd Annual Scottish
Games and Celtic Festival,
Gulfport

Experience the intensity of authentic Celtic sporting competitions as premier athletes go head to head in the caber toss, hammer throw, stone of strength, wrestling matches,



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and full-contact jousting. A genealogy tent, 5K run and "kilted mile," Medieval Village, living history demonstrations, plenty of Scottish food and crafts, live music and dancing, and family clan gatherings round out the activities.

November 17
Chili Today and Hot Tamale
Festival, Corinth

Spice up your weekend at the Crossroads Regional Chili Cookoff in northeast Missis-

sippi's historic town of Corinth. Sanctioned by the International Chili Society, the event features prizes in the red chili, chili verde, and salsa categories, as well as a People's Choice Award based on crowd feedback. Arts and crafts sales and live music last all day. And don't miss the crowning of Miss Chili Pepper and Mr. Hot Tamale.

MAP >

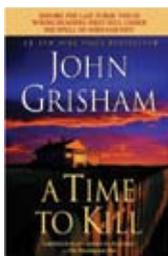


READ ALL ABOUT IT >

Collected Stories,
William Faulkner

In addition to his famous novels, the literary icon wrote a staggering number of short stories, many of which are lauded as some of his greatest—and most accessible—works.

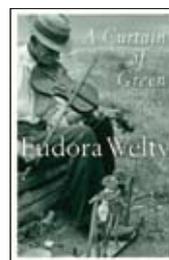
Originally published in 1951, this collection introduces the eccentricities, both endearing and repulsive, of Faulkner's native Mississippi and its people.

A Time to Kill,
John Grisham

Set in a fictional small Mississippi town, Grisham's first novel follows local lawyer Jake Brigance through the case of a black man who shoots two white men on trial for raping and beating his daughter. Overshadowed in the early nineties by Grisham's successive blockbuster hits, *A Time to Kill* eventually gained bestseller status as well and is considered by some to be the author's best work.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,
Tennessee WilliamsA Curtain of Green,
Eudora Welty

The 1955 Pulitzer Prize-winning play presents all the elements of a classic Southern Gothic drama: the secrets and complicated relationships within a family; the slow demise of genteel Southern society; and the unpredictable manifestations of years of regret, resentment, and unrealized dreams.



Welty's first published collection of short stories garnered immediate acclaim upon its release in 1941, and it continues to shine as some of her best work. Her subjects are the common people and landscape of her native Mississippi, shown in a light revealing the harsh, beautiful, mystical, and sometimes even comical aspects of life in the Deep South that the characters themselves consider merely mundane.

— continued on page 292

Somewhere

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TOP 10 CONT. >

5 Still Standing Flora is home to the Mississippi Petrified Forest, the only one of its kind in the eastern U.S. Stroll the nature trail through a fascinating 36-million-year-old landscape of amazingly well-preserved logs and tree limbs.

4 Arts for All Visit the Mississippi Crafts Center in Ridgeland, a state-of-the-art facility showcasing both traditional and contemporary works by the state's most celebrated artists and emerging talent.

3 Battle Lines See where some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War took place at the Champion Hill Battlefield in Hinds County and on the sites of the Vicksburg National Military Park and Corinth's Shiloh National Military Park.

2 Timeless Trail The 444-mile Natchez Trace Parkway commemorates an ancient trail connecting the Mississippi, Cumberland, and Tennessee Rivers between Natchez, Mississippi, and Nashville, Tennessee. Originally forged by animals in search of salt licks, it was adopted by Native Americans and later by pioneers and fur traders.

1 Center Stage The blues are alive and kickin' in venues like Clarksdale native Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero and Greenwood's Blue Parrot Cafe.

HOLIDAY ROAD >

The Mississippi Blues Trail – Delta Region

The Mississippi Blues Trail connects locations around the state that were instrumental in the birth and development of blues music and culture. Created by the Mississippi Blues Commission, the trail is a work in progress that will eventually include more than 100 historical markers and interpretive sites. While Highway 61 is widely recognized as “The Blues Highway,” Highways 10 and 49 played equally significant roles in blues history, and the Blues Trail leads visitors to a variety of sites along these important routes.

By virtue of its extensive agricultural heritage and cultural roots, the Delta boasts the largest concentration of blues sites in the state. Farthest south in the region on Highway 49, the Blue Front Cafe, where fieldhands from the Yazoo County plantations once gathered for refreshment and entertainment, is the birthplace of a particular style known as the “Bentonia blues.” Still owned and operated by the original family, the Blue Front Cafe has hosted greats like Nehemiah “Skip” James and Jack Owens. Far-



BOB KIMBROUGH, DELTA BLUES MUSEUM

ther north in Greenwood is the former site of WGRM radio, where B.B. King played in a monumental live broadcast in 1940, and just outside the city lies the gravesite of blues legend Robert Johnson.

The gravesite of blues pioneer Charley Patton is in Holly Ridge, and farther west Greenville's colorful Nelson Street, Mississippi's version of Beale Street, was lined with clubs where myriad blues performers were “discovered” by record producers. A bit north is the town of Rosedale, inspiration for songs about riding the rails and life on the banks of a taciturn river like Robert Johnson's “Traveling Riverside Blues” and Charley

Patton's “High Water Everywhere.” Back on Highway 61, Shaw is the birthplace of “Honeyboy” Edwards and home of juke joints like the White House, Riverside Inn, and One Minute.

A marker outside Clarksdale indicates the site of the home Muddy Waters lived in from 1915 until 1943 on Stovall Plantation, one of the state's most successful cotton farms. Waters played for Stovall family gatherings and entertained fieldworkers in his house after hours. Today the remains of Waters' house are displayed at Clarksdale's Delta Blues Museum. The city is also home of the Riverside Hotel, where traveling black musicians were provided comfortable lodging in the mid-1900s. Originally built as the G.T. Thomas Hospital serving African Americans, it was where blues empress Bessie Smith died in 1937 from injuries sustained in a car accident on Highway 61.

Additional sites along the Blues Trail are designated as funding becomes available. For site maps and updates on trail markers, Blues Commission events, and blues festivals around the state visit msbluestrail.org/blues_trail.



SANDY BYNUM, MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TOURISM DIVISION

CHRISTMAS

New Orleans Style

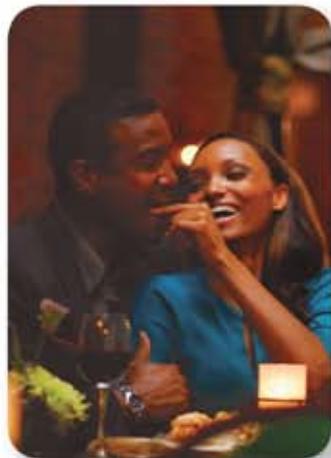
Join us for a month-long celebration of the season and the senses.

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Savor the Season 'Tis the season of the *Reveillon*, an old holiday dining tradition where restaurants citywide serve multiple courses at special *prix fixe* meals that will delight your palate and your pocketbook. Learn the secrets at Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, where local chefs reveal their secret recipes at free cooking classes.

Follow the Music Head to historic St. Louis Cathedral for free evening concerts featuring some of the world's best gospel, jazz, and R&B musicians. Take a stroll through the French Quarter as carolers shower you in song. On Christmas Eve, enjoy caroling in Jackson Square.

Shop for Treasure Some of New Orleans' best holiday shopping can be found right in the heart of the city, in the French Quarter. Browse the fine antique shops, unique art galleries, and world-famous restaurants on Royal Street—or head to the Arts District and Magazine Street for more fresh art, funky fashions, antiques, and folksy Louisiana crafts. There's no better place to make headway on your holiday gift list.



Join in the Cheer Sports fans, arrive early for the State Farm Bayou Classic (Nov. 24). Kick off the college bowl season at the New Orleans Bowl (Dec. 21). Catch the Hornets and the superstar Saints in regular season. Ring in the New Year and catch a live fireworks display before heading to Harrah's Casino. Don't miss out on the Allstate Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day and the BCS National Championship Game (Jan. 7, 2008).

Come and experience an authentic holiday tradition that's uniquely New Orleans!

For your free guide to all the events of *Christmas New Orleans Style* and discounted Papa Noël rates, visit NewOrleansOnline.com or call 800.510.NOLA.



GREAT SOUTHERN GETAWAYS >

TAKE FIVE >

Mississippi's Most Exciting Casinos

Mississippi is home to the third largest gaming market in the country and the largest casino on America's Gulf Coast. Whether you're a fan of table games or sold on the slots, the state's gaming establishments have plenty to offer.

Ameristar Casino, Vicksburg

A stationary riverboat facility in Vicksburg, Ameristar Casino Hotel offers cutting-edge gaming, three restaurants, and 150 comfortable guestrooms. Thirty-four table games include three-card and Caribbean stud poker, Spanish 21, roulette, craps, and blackjack. The more than 1,300 gaming machines include video poker, progressives, nickel slots, Megabucks, and Wheel of Fortune Video Slots. Ameristar also treats its guests to monthly player events, special promotions and giveaways, and exclusive tournaments.

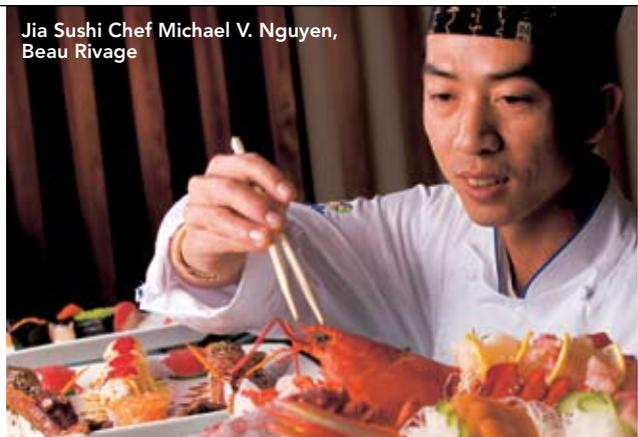
Beau Rivage Resort and Casino, Biloxi

Boasting the largest facility and most gaming tables of any Gulf Coast casino, Biloxi's stunning Beau Rivage Resort and Casino has it all. The resort's casino features ninety-three table games, 2,100 slot machines, 230 video poker games, and a sixteen-table poker room. A separate high-roller salon offers blackjack tables, roulette and baccarat, and high-limit slot machines. Beyond the game rooms, Beau Rivage dazzles guests with luxurious accommodations, choice restaurants and lounges, and exclusive shopping opportunities. Get away the right way with travel packages through Beau Rivage Vacations that include round-trip airfare from Atlanta, complimentary meals, and lodging for up to four nights.

Horseshoe Tunica Casino and Hotel, Tunica

Set on the Mississippi River in Tunica, the country's third largest gaming market behind Las Vegas and Atlantic City, Horseshoe Casino caters to both the serious and recreational player. Horseshoe offers more than 1,700 slot machines and seventy table games, including craps, roulette, Caribbean stud, and poker in the casino's legendary poker room. With 100-times odds on craps, \$10,000 limits at all tables, and the biggest jackpots around, Horseshoe prides itself on knowing what gamers want and delivering exceptional customer service. Its Bluesville Entertainment Complex showcases the

Jia Sushi Chef Michael V. Nguyen,
Beau Rivage



RON CALAMIA

region's musical heritage, consistently drawing top-name performers, and the sophisticated Founder's Club offers a relaxing respite from the action of the gaming room.

Pearl River Resort, Philadelphia

Philadelphia is home to Pearl River Resort, a complex of gaming facilities with thousands of slot machines and more than 100 tables. Pearl River's first hotel and casino, the Silver Star, houses more than 3,000 slot machines, including reel and video slots, high-denomination slots, and Wheel of Fortune quarter machines. Fifty-seven tables feature favorites like blackjack, craps, roulette, mini-baccarat, and Let It Ride. The Golden Moon Hotel and Casino, Pearl River's newest addition, features 2,100 slots, including video poker, video keno, and progressives, and forty-six tables headed by welcoming dealers. Celebrate your winnings with an indulgent on-site spa treatment and shopping spree.

Sam's Town Tunica, Tunica

Also located in Tunica, Sam's Town blends Vegas-caliber gaming and energy with traditional Southern hospitality. The two-floor gaming space includes slots and table games like blackjack, Caribbean stud, craps, keno, Let It Ride, Pai Gow Poker, roulette, and three-card poker. Sam's Town is also home to the city's only live keno and poker rooms. Catch a show at the state-of-the-art River Palace Entertainment Center or spend an afternoon in the Emporium Shoppes. Well-appointed guestrooms and amenities like golf, a relaxing pool and sauna, and delicious dining options also await.



Bottleneck Blues Bar, Ameristar Casino

AMERISTAR CASINO



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GREAT SOUTHERN GETAWAYS >

OVER THE LINE >

Move Over Mardi Gras: Christmas New Orleans Style



Ready to start making holiday plans? This year discover delightful traditions during "Christmas New Orleans Style," a citywide celebration throughout the month of December in the city famous for its good times. Be a part of Reveillon, a French dining custom revived by New Orleans Creoles in the 1800s to celebrate the breaking of a daylong fast after midnight mass on Christmas Eve. During today's version of the Reveillon, participating restaurants—many of which are 100-year-old Creole establishments—prepare multiple-course meals at a special *prix fixe* every night in December.

The French Quarter's high-end antique shops and fine art galleries and Magazine Street's fresh artwork, funky fashions, and folksy local crafts are ideal hunting grounds for holiday shoppers searching for one-of-a-kind gifts. Enjoy the world-famous restaurants on Royal Street, nostalgic candlelight caroling in Jackson Square, riverboat cruises, streetcars, brilliant light displays, and bonfires. Spend an evening with some of the world's greatest gospel, R&B, and jazz musicians in St. Louis Cathedral and view beautiful Garden District homes decked out in extravagant seasonal finery. And, of course, the city's major college bowl games are another huge draw. From music and dance to history, fine art, and sports, New Orleans offers visitors plenty of ways to revel in the spirit of the holiday season.

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ASK A LOCAL ➤

What's the best way to blow your diet when visiting Mississippi?



"In Jackson, I'd have to say whatever's on the menu at Elixir on any given night will make you very happy indeed. It's a beautiful place, great intimate atmosphere with superb food and fancy cocktails. Or if you want something a little more down-homey—head downtown to the Elite (we pronounce it E-light) and get the chicken fried steak . . . and the rolls are from heaven. For dessert, go to Bon Ami and have either the chocolate cake (it's bigger than my foot!) with vanilla ice cream or the caramel brownie with coffee ice cream. Or have BOTH—that's what I do!"

– **Jill Conner Browne**,
The Sweet Potato Queen and author of *The Sweet Potato Queens' First Big-Ass Novel* and *The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love*

LOG ON ➤

- 22nd Annual Scottish Games and Celtic Festival**
highlandsandislands.org
- Ameristar Casino** ameristar.com/vicksburg/index.asp
- Beau Rivage Resort and Casino** beaurivage.com
- Chili Today and Hot Tamale Festival**
chilitodayandhottamale.corinth.net
- City of New Orleans Tourism**
neworleansonline.com
- Greenwood Convention and Visitors Bureau**
gcvb.com
- Horseshoe Tunica Casino and Hotel** harrahs.com
- Mississippi Blues Trail** msbluestrail.org
- Mississippi Division of Tourism Development**
visitmississippi.org
- Mississippi Tourism Association** mstourism.com
- Mistletoe Marketplace** mistletoemarketplace.com
- Pearl River Resort** pearlriverresort.com
- Sam's Town Tunica** samstowntunica.com
- The Sweet Potato Queens** sweetpotatoqueens.com

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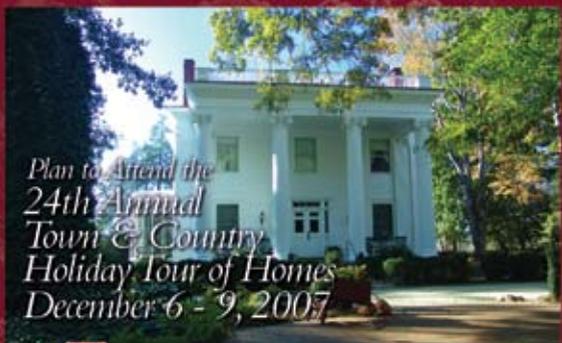
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